

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 14 AUGUST 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

In the news today:

SARL RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION OPEN DAY A MUST TO KEEP
ABREAST OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AMATEUR RADIO

PLC TO BE DISCUSSED BY ICASA AT THE SARL RTA OPEN DAY

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

A PROVINCIAL HAMNET MEETING FOR GAUTENG SOUTH AND THE
VAAL TRIANGLE

INTRODUCING THE SARL'S OWN ELECTRONIC QSL SERVICE - SA-QSL

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items. Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARLNews depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution reaches SARLNews is to place it in the correct place on web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will also be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The news follows in detail.

SARL RADIO TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION OPEN DAY A MUST TO KEEP
ABREAST OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AMATEUR RADIO

The SARL Radio Technology is Action Open day on 20 August is a must if you would like to keep abreast of new developments in Amateur Radio. The three stream programme provides lectures on a wide range of subjects ranging from designing and building a low power transceiver to construction techniques for homebrew to Dxing and Contesting, Satellites for beginners and propagation. Visit www.sarl.org.za for the full programme or send an email to armi@sarl.org.za and a copy will be mailed or faxed to you. Please include your email address or fax number.

During the 80th Anniversary of the SARL Breakfast the Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Awards, the Amateur Radio Community Service Award and the 2005 Construction Award will be presented. The Keynote Speaker is ms Lyn-dall Shope-Mafole, the Director General of the Department of Communication. Although the breakfast is by invitation, a number of tickets are available at R75 each. If you wish to book for the breakfast please send a mail to armi@sarl.org.za before 18 August. Bookings will be allocated on a first come bases. No tickets for the breakfast will be available at the door.

Attendance to the RTA Open day is R20 for adults, learners and students enter free. Every R20 ticket is entered into the draw for one of the attendance prizes which include two Icom IC-V82 portables donated by Multisource Telecomms and a lighting protection unit sponsored by Clearline. The attendance prizes are drawn during the final plenary at the end of the day's programmes. Spend an exciting Amateur Radio Day at the National Amateur Radio Centre. Refreshments and lunch will be available from the Sentech Restaurant or bring your own picnic basket.

PLC TO BE DISCUSSED BY ICASA AT THE SARL RTA OPEN DAY

Wojtek Skowronski, General Manager Engineering Services at ICASA will present an ICASA Update and Futuristic View of Power Line Communication at the SARL RTA Open day. Wojtek recently delivered the keynote address at the Second South African Powerline Communication conference. Listen to how the regulator views PLC and its implications.

SARL HF PHONE CONTEST

Logs have been received from ZS4BS, ZS4JAN, ZR6WDC, ZS6TDF, ZS4VR, ZS1AJS and ZS5NK.

Please make sure that you read the General Contest Rules as well as the rules for the HF Phone and CW Contest.

Logs will be returned if they do not conform to the rules as laid out in the Blue book

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

The 2005 International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend will take place on 20 and 21 August. The Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre will be activating Green Point Lighthouse and the Overberg Amateur Radio Club will be active from Danger Point Lighthouse.

Bud, ZS1B has been in contact with James Collocott of Lighthouse Services of the National Ports Authority, and James has given the contact details for his colleagues who would co-ordinate the visits. For the Western Cape - Port Nolloth to Mossel Bay contact Bernie Germishuys at 083 388 9521 For the area Cape St Francis to M'Bashe contact Chris Deyssel at 083 460 2058, and For Kwazulu-Natal contact Robin Poggenpoel at 083 388 9502.

Thanks to Bud for this liaison with the authorities.

A PROVINCIAL HAMNET MEETING FOR GAUTENG SOUTH AND THE VAAL TRIANGLE

A Provincial Hamnet meeting for Gauteng South and the Vaal triangle will be held on 27th Aug 2005, the venue will be at 79 Coen Labuschagne str (cnr Suttman str) Rensburg Heidelberg. The time will be 14h00 for 14h30

All club chairman, club representatives, current and would be members are invited to attend. Although space is a bit limited I do believe that there should be enough space for 20 to 30 people.

There are a number of burning issues to be discussed, so please diarize this date as important. Please make a special effort to advise all your club members in your local bulletins.

This message has also be distributed on packet radio BBS's

Our National Director Francois ZS6BUU will be in attendance we have also invited the SARL President Graham ZS6GJH.

The meeting will be followed by a bring and braai, so bring along your meat and RF. If there are any ladies attending we would appreciate a salad to go with the meat....HI. Also please bring along some deck chairs as seating is limited.

A call-in will be done on 145,500 (national call) for people having difficulty finding us. Please confirm if you will be attending so we can have an idea of the number of people attending. For more info or details contact Chris, ZS6VB, on 083-338-7070 or email zs6vb@kodaknigel.co.za. Hope to see you there

RESULTS OF THE HAMNET SIMULATED EMERGENCY CONTEST

Al Akers ZS2U, Provincial Director, Hamnet East Cape reports as follows:

Once again, this contest proved to be exciting and enjoyable. It is rather disappointing that there was only one multi-operator entry. What are all the clubs doing that they do not set up a station and join in?

Congratulations to the winners who are: Single operator Stationary Mobile: ZR5AG Single Operator Portable: Michael 7P8BHF Multi-operator Portable: Sid ZS6AYC Single Operator Base station: Jan ZS4JAN

Full results are:

Single operator stationary mobile: ZR5AG - 1 575 points; Keith ZS6AGF - 1 116 points; Pieter ZS5SK - 936 points; Andrew ZR1SBM - 896 points; Chris ZR6MVK - 372 points.

Single Operator Portable: Michael 7P8BHF - 3 297 points; East Rand ARC ZS6ERB - 2 034 points; Al ZS2U - 1 785 points; Dennis ZS4BS - 1 512 points; Andre ZS2AJ - 672 points.

Multi-Operator Portable: Sid ZS6AYC - 1 386 points.

Single Operator Base Station: Jan ZS4JAN - 2 016 points; Graham ZS6/G0NBI - 1 848 points; Bill ZS2ABZ - 868 points.

Thanks to all who submitted logs!

INTRODUCING THE SARL'S OWN ELECTRONIC QSL SERVICE - SA-QSL

With the growing popularity of electronic QSO confirmation the SARL has risen to the challenge of providing such a service to its members.

Why a Southern Africa only QSL service? Now that many hams use logging software such as Logger32 and the like it is easier than ever to export QSO's into online e-QSL systems. The SARL system allows for all ADIF compliant logger programs as well as manual inputs and a quick reply option.

In South Africa contacts between fellow Southern African hams count towards SARL Awards such as the prestigious Worked All ZS Award as well as for ZR's wishing to upgrade their licence by following the operating achievement upgrade path.

With this new electronic QSO confirmation system in place raking in those QSL's should be a whole lot easier. Look out for the "You've got QSL's" Icon at the top of the SARL website next time you login.

The SA-QSL system will be running in DEMO mode for the next few days to give everyone a chance to experiment without corrupting the system. So go ahead, play and get to know this new feature on the SARL Website. Visit www.sarl.org.za for more.

FEEDBACK - APRS EXPERIMENT IN RUSTENBURG NATURE RESERVE, 30 July 2005

All odds were against the exercise from being a success, it was a very mountainous region and the ZS0RTB-1 digipeater was almost 40 km from where the run took place and definitely not always line of site.. The talkie was set at it's maximum power output of 5 Watts to raise the probability of triggering the digipeater.. The GPS performed well and satellite reception was good.

Some comments from Johan ZS6JPL: "It was quite fun today checking your run. I made sure you went out on the APRS IGATE all the time." and from Johnny, ZS6BAJ, "I had fun finding you (I had almost given up but it seemed either you started beaconing late or you just started a tad later than you anticipated). It was almost like winning the jackpot when I saw the jogger icon pop up on the map." Overall the exercise was a great success. Eddie, ZS6BNE, requests that any other reports to be sent to his saltmine address at facman@nwk.co.za as his ZS6BNE mailbox has a limit on the amount of data it can handle and may have refused any further mail sent last weekend.

ZS1OAR ELECTION

On 30 July 2005, ZS1OAR (Overberg Amateur Radio Club) held a meeting and amongst other things elected a vicechairman to the comitee of ZS1OAR.

We congratulate ZR1AM, André Meintjies of Swellendam on his election. The meeting closed with a braai. As chairman I would like to thank everyone who travelled from afar to attend the meeting. This is from Len van Riel, ZS1LEN (Chairman)

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: WWW.CQYELLOWPAGES.COM

A Texas ham has set up a new web site that he says is to help other hams market products and services. Barry A. Goldblatt, WA5KXX, says that his CQ Yellow Pages will enable hams to place information about their business products and services by category in a fully-searchable national database.

Goldblatt says that the site provides over 2 600 categories from A to Z just like a standard commercial directory. WA5KXX says that his goal is to build a national cyberspace marketplace where advertisers and visitors have something in common. You can find out by visiting www.cqyellowpages.com on the world-wide-web.

MEGA FLEAMARKET IN PRETORIA

The Pretoria amateur radio club will be hosting a fleamarket on Saturday 3 September 2005. The fleamarket will be held at the usual place at the South-Campus of the University of Pretoria, at the corner of University and Lynwood roads. The starting time is 09:00.

Everyone, clubs and non club members are welcome to attend. Come and visit this Mega Fleamarket in Pretoria. Phone Almero ZR6RY on (H)(012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359 if you want to book a table or if you need more detail about the fleamarket.

PROPAGATION FORECAST

The following information was obtained from Kobus Olckers's website:

Forecast of Solar and Geomagnetic Activity

10 August - 05 September 2005. Solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels.

The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to minor storm levels on 16 - 17 August, and again on 23 - 26 August.

LONGER TERM OUTLOOK (06 September 2005 - 06 October 2005)

Some degraded HF propagation conditions are still possible during the whole period due to coronal hole activity occurring during this declining phase of the solar cycle. Flaring with the associated fading and D-layer absorption is also possible.

For more information as well as frequency predictions please visit PST's website at www.spaceweather.co.za

DIARY OF EVENTS

20 August - RTA Open day at the NARC; 27 August Hamnet Gauteng and Vaaltriangle meeting 3 September - Mega flea market arranged by the Pretoria ARC

The SARL invites you to listen today at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 565, 7 205, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentechn sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX